Relations with Countries of Eastern Europe

1414. DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the main directions of change in India's relationship with the countries in Eastern Europe following the recent happenings in that region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): India has traditionally had friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of Eastern Europe. These countries are presently engaged in a radical process of economic and political restructuring. The introduction of multi-party democracy in these countries is a development that has been welcomed by the Government of India.

The changes referred to above give rise to even greater opportunities for strengthening relations with these countries and it is Government's endeavour to fully utilise this potential for furthering mutually beneficial co-operation.

Joint Security move against Militants

1415. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of joint security move against militants by security forces of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). There is no such move. However, co-ordinated action is sought to be taken by the security agencies of the concerned States whenever required.

Research on Betel Leaf

1416. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the research work undertaken/ proposed to undertaken to boost betel leaf production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Sir, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken research on Betel vine through on All India Co-ordinated Project at ten Centres. As a result of this research integrated disease management strategy involving cultural methods, disease free planting material and soil drenching and spraying techniques with Bordeaux mixture have been developed.

Flood Assistance to Maharashtra

1417. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra was affected by floods and excessive rain during 1991-92;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request for financial assistance from the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have sanctioned the amount requested by the State Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.